

wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

RECOGNIZES THE ACADEMY AT
THE FARM SCHOOL FOR EDU-
CATIONAL SUCCESS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Academy at the Farm School, a Pasco County, Florida charter school that is being recognized for academic achievement at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The Center for Education Reform has selected the School as an Exemplary Charter School for the past year. The Academy at the Farm School is one of six from Florida, 53 nationwide, and was chosen from over 4 thousand eligible charter schools.

Founded in 2002 as an inclusion school for exceptional student education students, the School is designed to place these gifted students in a regular classroom setting. In addition to its focus on academic success, the School also focuses on learning about the environment.

One of the most successful institutions in Florida, the School has a grade of A and has met 100 percent of the criteria required for adequate yearly progress. Additionally, it was one of only four schools in Pasco County to have achieved adequate yearly progress. With a student to faculty ratio of only six to one, there is a strong focus on individual teaching and learning. All the teachers at the School are certified, with 30 percent of them having advanced degrees and a total of over 225 years experience.

The Academy received a letter from former Florida Governor Jeb Bush recognizing the fourth graders as one of the top 100 elementary schools in the State for improvements in writing. They also received a letter from Governor Bush for being named one of the top 50 combination schools in the State that made the most year-to-year progress.

As is the case with many successful educational institutions, the Academy at the Farm School is headed up by strong leaders and administrators. Dr. Michael Rom, the School Administrator, is the former Provost at Pasco Hernando Community College and is highly respected in the education and professional world. He and the seven teachers attending the event in Washington were original staff members of the Academy and have continued their commitment to Pasco County children and families.

Madam Speaker, educational leaders like Dr. Rom and the teachers at the Academy at the Farm School should be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. Their record of success has proven them worthy of being named an Exemplary Charter School by the Center for Education Reform. I congratulate them on the award and know that they will continue to focus on educational achievement into the future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CHESTER ALEXANDER HUNT, SR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Fairhope and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Chester Alexander Hunt, Sr., was an institution at Fairhope's Grand Hotel, serving as a waiter, concierge, official greeter, and historian for more than 60 years.

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Mr. Hunt spent most of his life in Fairhope with his wife of 65 years, Mary Lewis Hunt, who passed away in February of this year.

On April 18, 1941, Mr. Hunt began his career at the Grand Hotel. He left the hotel to serve in the Army during World War II and returned after the war ended. During his time at the Grand Hotel, Chester welcomed countless guests to the 160-year-old hotel, including former President George H.W. Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Dolly Parton, and Bo Jackson.

It goes without saying that Mr. Hunt was well known throughout southwest Alabama. He conducted regular history tours for the guests and special tours for groups. In 1998, Chester was awarded the hotel chain's J.W. Marriott Award of Excellence.

In addition to his service at the Grand Hotel, Mr. Hunt owned an insurance company in Fairhope for more than 20 years and served on the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a truly wonderful man, a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Chester Alexander Hunt will be deeply missed by his family—his children, Jan Marie Coleman, Julius Hunt, Chester A. Hunt, Jr., Tyrone Hunt, and Kerry Hunt; his brother, Cecil Hunt; 8 grandchildren; and 10 great grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 60-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF THE 16 ACRE
LIONS CLUB

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I wish to celebrate the accomplishments of the 16 Acre Lions Club as well as their 60 years of service to the great city of Springfield, Massachusetts. Below is a brief history of the Club as well as their many accomplishments.

The Springfield 16 Acres Lions Club began on April 25, 1947. The Club's charter night occurred on June 18, 1947. In the beginning, the meetings were held in various buildings, including Belle's, the Old School House, and the Foster Memorial Church. During the 1950s, the Club presented movies for the community in the School House for the price of a dime.

All children were welcomed and no child was ever refused for lack of a dime.

Another hallmark of the Club during the 1950s, was the establishment of the Lions Orthopedic Clinic, established by Russell Koch (a past President of the Club) in 1951. The patients of the Clinic were referred by local ophthalmologists and were charged a fee according to their ability to pay. Today the facility remains open and is currently located on Maple Street in downtown Springfield.

Fred Hoare, a past District Governor, formed the sports program. The program included events for soccer, basketball, softball, as well as baseball. The Club held a soccer tournament every year on Memorial Day weekend, with teams from as far away as Virginia participating.

For the past 37 years, the Club has provided food baskets for needy families during the Christmas season. This is coordinated through the local churches. Along with food, presents for children are also included. Money to support this effort has been raised through a raffle ticket sale during the month of November.

The Club has also provided glaucoma and diabetic testing for the community. Eyeglasses as well as eye exams for those in need were provided free of charge through authorized facilities. Other charitable events included an annual Easter egg hunt held the Saturday before Easter at Greenleaf Park. Six local elementary schools participate in the Easter egg hunt every year. The Club also organizes a pancake breakfast at St. Catherine's on Park Street. The proceeds are used for scholarships for graduating high school seniors.

The Club also raises money for funding of the 33Y Lions District Eye Mobile. The mobile will be a fully equipped Winnebago for the testing of diabetes, high blood pressure, and glaucoma. The mobile will be equipped with a special camera to take photos of the retina. The camera will also be equipped with a fax machine that will send the photos to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear in Boston for analysis. This project has taken over eight years to complete and I am happy to report that it will be available this summer for use in any Lions Club in Western Massachusetts.

Fifteen years ago the Club began its participation of a beautification project in the center of 16 Acres. This project was headed by Lion Richard Messier and is now run by Mr. Richard Pond. The Club formed a committee in order to have a Lions Park at the corner of Wilbraham Road and Park Street. Members of the Club contribute by cutting grass, cleaning up the leaves, and planting flowers every spring for the Veterans on Memorial Day. They also place Christmas decorations including a lighted train. The Club has so far spent \$3,500 dollars in order to keep the park beautiful.

Our Club has produced four District Governors. The late Robert Scott, Richard Leary, and Fred Hoare have served in this capacity. PDG John Ingalls is still active in the 16 Acres Club. These four men are held in high regard and are well respected for their accomplishments.

Lastly, it is important to note that the success of the many projects that this Club has undertaken is due to the dedication of its members. Lions truly demonstrate their motto, "We Serve."